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Financial irregularities in DU

5-member inquiry committee formed

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The Dhaka University Syndicate has set up a five-member inquiry committee to sort out the alleged financial irregularities committed by the university administration.

The Syndicate in its meeting held on July 8 took into consideration a letter from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The letter alleged that in gross violation of government rules the university authority has increased the pay scales of 535 employees of different categories and again has placed a proposal for increasing the salary and benefit of 587 employees of the university which is not compatible with the government instruction and rules applicable for the enhancement of salary in any autonomous institution.

The UGC pointed out that the proposed increase will incur an additional cost of Tk 60 lakh.

The five-member committee set up by the Syndicate

include A. Faruk, treasurer of the university as chairman, and Dr Mohammed Maniruzzaman, dean of the science faculty, Shafique Ahmed, Dr. Alim al Razi, Dr A.T.M. Zahurul Haque, associate Professor of the Economics Department, Dhaka University as members. The Accounts Director of the university will work as member-secretary.

The inquiry committee was supposed to submit its report on the objections raised by University Grants Commission by July 17.

The terms of reference of the inquiry committee included that the committee will examine the objections against the D.U. authority in the light of what steps had been taken regarding financial and administrative rules in Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi Universities.

The committee will also suggest how the increased salary disbursed under an irregular decision among the different categories of

employees can be recovered. By this time, in a letter the Education Ministry has instructed the University Grants Commission not to disburse any amount of allocation to Dhaka University and Rajshahi University without prior permission from the ministry till a decision is taken about reported financial irregularities.

However, on July 14 the University Grants Commission released an amount of Tk 3 crore to meet the exigencies including the salary of the university employees for July. But the additional amount of Tk 2 crore 15 lakh for last year's recurring expenditure has been detained.

This year out of a total budget of 26 crore 5 lakh takas, the government has granted Tk 23 crore 45 lakh of which the said amount of 3 crore takas has been distributed.

To get this fund released the Syndicate called on

Professor A. Bari, chairman of the Grants Commission on July 14 and assured him about regularization of all sorts of irregularities committed by the university administration.

It is learnt that the salary of the university employees for June had been distributed from the reserve fund and now it will be impossible for the university authority to run the administration after August without getting the fund released from the Grants Commission.

Sources close to the inquiry committee told Holiday that the delay in submitting their report was due to non-availability of necessary papers and documents. They said it is quite impossible to make any inquiry without getting the relevant documents.

When contacted Professor Bari told Holiday that the matter will be looked into after Eid.

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It may be mentioned that the university Syndicate can increase the salary of 25 percent of its employees without government permission. But it is alleged that after December 12, 1986 the rules had been violated and 535 employees including 3rd and 4th grade employees had been upgraded.

In this connection a letter issued by the Finance Ministry to the UGC on August 12, 1987 pointed out that according to Act No 32, Clause 5 (2) of 1975 the salary and benefits of all employees of autonomous organizations including universities is determined by the Finance Ministry and any authority of autonomous status has no right to change the salary and benefits of the employees without obtaining prior permission from the government.

The University Grants Commission in its letter of June 25 issued in favor of the vice chancellor has instructed 1) to repeal the illegal decision taken earlier by the university authority, 2) to implement the government decision, 3) to recover the additional salary from the employees, and 4) to take action against the persons responsible for the violation of financial rules.

Meanwhile a government audit team has started its routine audit of the accounts of university.